

Faculty Update

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STRIKE OF 2006

GEORGE BROWN COLLEGE • LOCAL 556
College Professors, Counsellors & Librarians

We're moving the system *Up!*

Local 556 Strike Office • 25 Cecil St., Ste. 301 • tel (416) 977-0684 • fx (416) 977-9181 • opseu556@gmail.com

SOLIDARITY RALLIES FOR ALL LOCALS THIS THURSDAY, 5:00 PM!

All locals have been requested to organize solidarity rallies Thursday afternoon to coincide with the Budget and Speech from the Throne at Queens Park. A key theme for the rallies is the chronic under-funding of Ontario's colleges.

Local 556 will be holding our rally at the St. James picket at **5:00 p.m.** We'll be having guest speakers, support from education unions, the Toronto and York Region Labour council, music and lots and lots of energy! Please make it a priority to attend – the Thursday afternoon rally will count as your morning picket; please sign in with your picket captain, but at St James. ↩



Leah Casselman (middle) chats with Marilou Martin-Benoit and Tom Tomassi.

PICKET LINE VISITORS

Leah Casselman, President of OPSEU, visited faculty picketers at the St James campus on Monday morning, answering faculty questions and encouraging us as the team returned to bargaining. Jeff Heximer, collective bargaining staff with the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association also arrived – with a banner! – to show solidarity. Along with Local 557's gift of soup and sandwiches, the Monday morning picket line was full of good news! ↩ ↩ ↩

OPSEU 556 WEBSITE

Faculty member Paul Royes has revamped the Local 556 website – interlog.com/~opseugbc/ — it's now up to date with over 100 photos, current announcements and our Faculty Updates newsletters. Send us your photos and stories for us to post at opseu556@gmail.com.

800 CHEQUES

Local 556's payroll squad generated and signed over 800 cheques for striking teachers, counsellors and librarians in a single day! They're being distributed on the picket lines and are available for pick-up at the strike office. Thanks to Madeline, Ed L, and Tom who have perfected their signatures. ↩

LETTER FROM COLOMBIA

In the March 13 issue of Faculty Update there was an article about the Christian Peacemakers Team and the death of Tom Fox in Baghdad. This is the response from Robin Buyers, a member of Local 556 currently serving with the Peacemakers in Colombia:

Dear friends,

It's late here in Colombia, but I have just read the message of condolence to me and my Christian Peacemaker Teams' colleagues included in the strike update. I cried, grateful that you are thinking of Tom and of us, and shared your words with those with me in the office.

We are including a memorial to Tom in the public action we are holding tomorrow morning in Barrancabermeja to mark and mourn the third anniversary of the occupation of Iraq. The outpouring of support from the human rights workers, including unionists, who are so often targets of war themselves here, has both humbled and sustained us.

A memorial service for Tom Fox will be held at Metropolitan United Church, 56 Queen St. E., Toronto, at 7 p.m. on Sunday, April 2. I will still be in Colombia, but would be honoured, as would Christian Peacemaker Teams, if any of my OPSEU compañeros were able to attend

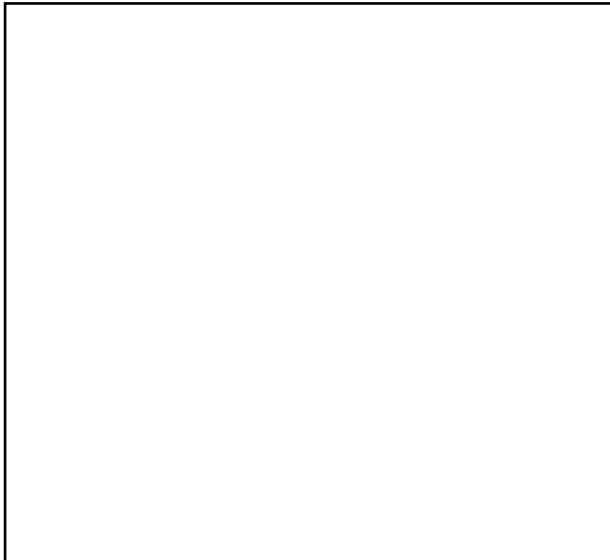
Again, my thanks, Robin Buyers

PS (from another letter) Thanks for all you're doing to support this crucial campaign to have our serious workload issues addressed after all these years. You know I'd be right there with you if I were not in Colombia. ↵

\$94,000. 3 MONTHS OFF. WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

We keep hearing this kind of inane statement in the media and from some disgruntled people. In addition to Paddy and Phil's Salary Reality Check published in yesterday's newsletter, we offer the following :

If a plumber earning a modest \$70 an hour, worked 44 hours a week for a continuous 36 weeks, she or he would be earning \$110,880. So, that's right — what is the problem? ↵



MEET TEACHERS' DEMANDS

As a student I would like to voice my support and trust in the teachers who have taken upon themselves to fight for better conditions for their students. I would like to encourage college management that instead of looking for ways to turn us against our teachers, they should find a way to meet our teachers demands so this strike can end as soon as possible. ↵ ↵ ↵

Smadar Carmon, Toronto

[reprinted from Metro, March 16, 2006: 03]

DIPLOMAS WITHOUT PROFESSORS

Cartoon courtesy "Prise de Courant" and Section Syndicate 673, Collège Boreal.